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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Rumania
SUBJECT Uranium Mines in Rumania

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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SOURCE:

1. A uranium mine is located near Oradea and two other mines are in the Bihor Mountains near the towns of Baita and Saliste Vascau, south of Beius. Ore from the mines is loaded on trains which depart each night in the direction of the Soviet Union.
2. Approximately 10,000 miners are employed in the three mines and all work is on a voluntary basis attracted by the high wages of 1,500 lei per month. The miners, who for the most part are young people with few family ties, live in special compounds from which they are not permitted to leave during their employment. The compounds are equipped with excellent facilities, including libraries, club and recreation rooms, cinemas and canteens.
3. Work in the mines is in shifts of four hours each. Much of the exploitation is still primitive but machinery is arriving continually from the USSR to step up production. Protection for personnel is poor and after several months' work the miners usually fall victim to diseases which are typical to uranium mines. All illnesses are treated in the compound hospitals.
4. All the mines and the compounds are enclosed by two high barbed wire fences which are reported to be charged with electricity. In addition a zone several kilometers in width surrounding the mines is known as a secret terrain of the State and special passes must be obtained prior to entry. Protection of the installations is in the hands of both army personnel and security forces. All trains entering and leaving the area are minutely searched and security forces accompany each train as it leaves the area. Any suspicious act or talk on the part of any of the miners calls for a detailed security investigation.

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5. Soviet personnel stationed at the mines are occupied exclusively with the technical problems of production.

[] Comment: For previous information concerning uranium mines in Rumania see []

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